

Senate Resolution No. 14

Introduced by Senator Steinberg

Relative to the Standing Rules of the Senate for the 2011–12 Regular Session

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Standing Rules of the Senate for the 2011–12 Regular Session are amended as follows:

First—That Rule 12.5 is amended to read:

General Research Committee

12.5. The General Research Committee is hereby created pursuant to Section 11 of Article IV of the California Constitution, which relates to legislative committees. The committee consists of the 40 Senators, and the President pro Tempore is its chair. The committee is allocated all subjects within the scope of legislative regulation and control, but may not undertake any investigation that another committee has been specifically requested or directed to undertake. The General Research Committee may act through subcommittees appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. Each member of the General Research Committee is authorized and directed to receive and investigate requests for legislative action made by individuals or groups and to report thereon to the full committee.

The committee and its members shall have and exercise all of the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon investigating committees and their members by the Senate Rules and the Joint Rules of the Senate and Assembly. However, neither the committee nor its members may issue a subpoena without the prior approval of the Committee on Rules. The committee has the following additional powers and duties:

(a) To contract with other agencies, public or private, for the rendition and affording of services, facilities, studies, and reports to the committee as the committee deems necessary to assist it to carry out the purposes for which it is created.

(b) To cooperate with and secure the cooperation of county, city, city and county, and other local law enforcement agencies in investigating any matter within the scope established by this rule, and to direct the sheriff of any county to serve subpoenas, orders, and other process issued by the committee.

(c) To meet and act at any place within the State of California and, when authorized in writing by the Committee on Rules to do so, to meet and act outside the state to carry out its duties.

(d) To report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the people from time to time.

(e) To act during sessions of the Legislature, including any recess.

(f) To do any and all other things necessary or convenient to enable it fully and adequately to exercise its powers, perform its duties, and accomplish the objects and purposes of this rule.

The Committee on Rules may allocate, from time to time, to the General Research Committee from the Senate Operating Fund those sums that are necessary to permit the General Research Committee and the members thereof to carry out the duties imposed on them. In addition, the Committee on Rules may allocate to any subcommittee from the Senate Operating Fund those sums that the Committee on Rules deems necessary to complete the investigation or study conferred upon that subcommittee.

Second—That Rule 12.6 is added to read:

12.6. A select committee is a subcommittee of the General Research Committee. Staff providing services to a select committee are Senate employees assigned by the Committee on Rules to the General Research Committee.

(a) A Senator who proposes to establish a select committee shall submit to the Committee on Rules a written request that includes all of the following:

(1) A description of the topic to be addressed by the select committee and a general work plan and timetable, including hearings, anticipated work product, and staffing needs and other anticipated resource demands.

(2) A statement by the Senator proposing the select committee that he or she has discussed his or her plans with the chair of the standing committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the proposed select committee. The statement shall describe any objections that chair has to the establishment of the proposed select committee.

(b) A select committee may be established only by a resolution adopted by the Committee on Rules that specifies the jurisdiction of the select committee. In making this decision, the Committee on Rules shall consider any objections to that action raised by the chair of a standing committee having jurisdiction over the subject matter of the proposed select committee.

(c) The Committee on Rules shall appoint the members of a select committee. A select committee may act only with regard to the particular study or investigation assigned to it by the Committee on Rules.

(d) A select committee is terminated automatically upon the adjournment of the regular session in which it is established, or at an earlier time specified in the resolution. In deciding whether to reestablish a select committee established in a previous regular session, the Committee on Rules shall consider the extent to which the select committee successfully achieved its assigned objections.

Senate Resolution No. 14 read and adopted by the Senate March 25, 2011.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate